

## **EFFECT OF LEAD LEVELS IN BREAST MILK ON ESTIMATED INFANT INTAKE OF LEAD**

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Breast milk is the first food for infants and it serves as the major nutrient source for biological functions and growth during the early stages of life. For that reason, infant exposure to lead through breast milk is of special concern. Lead is neurotoxic and may cause mental deficiency, movement disorders, kidney dysfunction, and abnormal perception, especially during fetal growth and development. However, lead concentrations in breast milk in this study are low and comparable to those found in other studies. A Hazard Index (HI) exceeding 1.0 indicates that infant consuming breast milk has a potential health risk. In the present study, the HI ranged from 0.055 to 0.329. It means that the body burden of lead in the infants was not affected by consume of breast milk.

Keywords: breast milk, lead levels, hazard index